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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
MALTON

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1945.



MALTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in producing my report for the year ending 31st December, 1945.

This report is compiled according to the instructions of and from the statistics provided by the Ministry of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres 48,078.

Population estimated 5,705.

Number of inhabited houses 1,601.

Rateable Value £18,197 7s. 0d.

Product of a penny rate £77 10s. 6d.

The main geological features of the area consist of a ridge of limestone extending from Malton in a direction West by North to the village of Hovingham and to the North of this ridge the alluvial lake bed of Pickering in which lie the villages of Brawby, Butterwick, Habton and parts of the villages of Hovingham, and Slingsby. To the south of the ridge is a wide band of Boulder Clay on which the villages of Sheriff Hutton, Foston and Barton-le-Willows are situated.

The sole industry of the district is agriculture and pursuits connected therewith and comprises all kinds of arable farming, dairy farming, stock and sheep raising. Milk production have been vastly augmented, both as to quality and improved methods of production.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The deaths numbered 59—33 male and 26 female—making the death rate 10·7 per 1,000 of the total population. For England and Wales this rate was 11·4, so that our birth rate is about the average, and our death rate below—an exchange somewhat in our favour.

	M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	3	17
Per 1,000 live births 34 as against 46 for the whole country.		

An analysis of the various causes of death show that 13 males and 12 females died from Heart Diseases, i.e. were old people; 4 females from Cancer and 1 from Puerperal sepsis.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

The following cases were notified:—

Scarlet Fever	2
Erysipelas	2
Paratyphoid Fever	1
Measles	171
Whooping Cough	16

The Isolation Hospital at Norton Grove has again been available for our cases, but will be closing shortly when the emergency measures are no longer required. During the war this hospital has been most useful but we shall now revert to our old arrangement with York Fever Hospital.

The epidemic of measles was severe and extended over the months of January to July. The areas most seriously affected were Hovingham, Castle Howard and Terrington with odd cases in the nearby villages.

One death, that of a female was due to measles.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	33	26
Tuberculosis	1	
Syphilitic Diseases	1	
Measles		1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum		2
Cancer of all other sorts		2
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	4	1
Heart Diseases	13	12
Other Diseases of the Circular System		1
Bronchitis	2	
Pneumonia	1	
Other Respiratory diseases		1
Digestive Diseases	1	1
Nephritis	1	1
Puerperal sepsis		1
Congenital Malformation, Bites, Injuries, etc.	1	1
Suicide	1	
Road Traffic Accidents	2	
All other causes	5	2
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Death of Infants under 1 year (All Legitimate).....	3	
Total Live Births—Legitimate	39	43
Illegitimate	4	2

Population	5,594
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GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers of the authority.

Medical Officer of Health,

Dr. L. C. Walker, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
(Part-time Officer).

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor,
J. E. Morgan, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

2. NURSING.

Provision for Nursing in the home is made by the District Nurses situated at Amotherby and Nunnington, and they also act as Midwives for their respective districts.

3. CLINICS.

Clinics for the various diseases are now provided, viz.:—

Venereal Disease	York and Scarborough
Tuberculosis	York and Scarborough
Orthopædic	Malton
Infant Welfare	Swinton and Amotherby

4. HOSPITALS.

The Malton and Norton District Hospital situated at Malton covers the need of the District to a large extent whilst the villages nearer York make use of the York City and York County Hospitals. Specialist treatment is provided when required, by the Staffs from York and Leeds.

5. AMBULANCE SERVICE.

An Ambulance for non-infectious cases is provided at Malton and is run by a Committee and the voluntary help of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. It has done much useful work.

6. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory work such as the Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are now carried out at the Laboratory started during the War by the Ministry of Health and at the present time situated at the County Hall, Northallerton. It has been found of great assistance by Medical Practitioners of the area.

HOUSING.

A post war programme to build 92 permanent houses has been drawn up, and in some cases the sites have been chosen, surveyed and purchased. Six of the houses are to be of the Swedish Timber Type.

WATER SUPPLY.

Practically the whole of the area is now covered by the Council's works situated at Amotherby. The water is drawn from a deep well in the limestone, and a copious supply of excellent quality is available. As a further safeguard this supply is chlorinated.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

This is carried out by your Sanitary Inspector and his services have been required at the Army Camp Supply Depot at Amotherby.

THE REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Shops and stores throughout the area have been periodically inspected. Small quantities of food, found unfit for human consumption were condemned.

At the request of the Military, large consignments of food-stuffs, at the Command Supply Depot, were examined. Condemned food was usually salvaged for use as pig food.

WATER SUPPLY.

The majority of the Parishes are supplied with water received from the Street Villages Regional Scheme. The Parishes of Coneysthorpe and Ganthorpe have a private supply, while Scackleton has no piped supply.

During the year water samples have been regularly submitted for analysis and the reports have consistently shown the water to be of a high standard and entirely fit for all domestic purposes.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

In the majority of Villages the surface water drains are used as sewers. At Hovingham and Ganthorpe systems of sewage disposal are in operation.

As is general in Rural England the pail closet and earth closet are in general use, but a number of private owners have installed water closets in conjunction with septic tanks. While some of the Council Houses are supplied with Elsan Chemical Closets others have water closets connected to septic tanks. Due to the fact that in some cases no effluent drains were provided to the septic tanks, nuisances have occurred. In all but three cases this defect has been remedied.

A service of cesspool emptying is in operation throughout the district.

The Council has been deeply concerned with the problem of adequately sewerage the District, and a survey of a large portion of the area has been made.

HOUSING.

Owing to the shortage of labour and materials it has only been possible to affect minor improvements to housing property in the District.

Number of houses inspected	156
Number of informal notices served	18
Number of informal notices complied with	12

During the latter part of the year a part-time unqualified Assistant was appointed to carry out work in connection with the Rural Housing Survey. This work is proceeding.

INSPECTIONS UNDER NUISANCES, SEWERAGE DRAINS, Etc.

Number of inspections	652
Number of informal notices served	57
Number of informal notices complied with	57

The open sewers were 'cleansed out as often as possible, taking into account the serious lack of labour.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Number of inspections	151
Number of informal notices served for white- washing and minor repairs	12

In all cases these were complied with.

During the year 8 persons were registered as wholesale producers of milk. Samples of milk have been taken before authorisation was given for the milk in schools supply scheme.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Every Parish with the exception of Scackleton and Fryton have a regular refuse collection. A new motor lorry has been purchased for this and other purposes. The service is appreciated by householders and will eventually do away with indiscriminate dumping of refuse on the countryside.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There is no serious pollution of streams in the area.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of schools is on the whole fair.



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